

# The Compost

A Newsletter celebrating Charles County Master Gardener Projects

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## Celebrate La Plata!

by CCMG Terry Thir

Charles County Master Gardeners participated in the annual Town of La Plata's "Celebrate La Plata" day event on Saturday, April 27, 2024. We set up educational booths featuring our major projects: Bay-Wise, Grow It Eat It, and Natives/Pollinators.

Demonstrations were held on how to make lettuce boxes, potato baskets, and vermicomposting. CCMGs held a variety of interactive children's activities. An "Ask the Expert" plant clinic responded to horticultural questions.



CCMGs Janet McGrane and Karen Westhead answer questions (photo by Terry Thir).

If you have a landscape, insect, or plant disease question, please use the [Ask Extension webpage](#) to submit photos and other details.

**Celebrate La Plata! cont.**  
by CCMG Terry Thir



CCMGs Linda Ivko, Karen Westhead, Terry Thir, Marguerita Harding, Rose Markham, Karen Trundle, Beth Grem at Celebrate La Plata.



CCMGs Terry Thir, Marguerita Harding, Bill Allen, Karen Trundle and Beth Grem.

# NatureFest

Project Leader Derex Thompson, photos by Bill Allen

Thank you to all CCMG volunteers who helped with NatureFest on May 25th including Kathy Jenkins, Derex Thompson, Sandy, Brett, Bill Allen, and Karen Trundle. Enjoy the photos!



# Senior Education Programs

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

Hello Fellow Gardeners! Our project team has been hard at work, even in this heat!!

At the **Richard S. Clark Senior Center** (1210 Charles St.; La Plata, MD 20646), the Senior Plus gardening program is in full swing. The 'Clark Gardeners' have completed 8 classes in the 12-class curriculum. The special speakers and presenters have included: Jan Lakey-Waters, Brian Larson, Janet McGrane, Julie Nethon-Williams and Kay Redman. The patio garden is complete and beautiful. It includes blooming natives and pollinators. We have harvested salad greens, tomatoes, green peppers, hot peppers, squash, various types of beans and potatoes, so far. Herbs have been cut and used to make an organic bug spray. There are several special plants and herbs, including a Shrimp plant, an Elephant Ear plant, Cuban oregano and Pineapple sage.



Jan Lakey-Waters demonstrating flower arranging (photo by Donna Ball).



Kathy Davis (front), along with Janet McGrane and Brian Larson, helping with flower arrangements (photo by Donna Ball).



Flower arrangements made by the Clark Gardeners (photo by CCMG Linda Ivko).

**Senior Education Programs, cont.**  
**Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault**



An herb presentation was provided for all the seniors at the Clark Center on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Over 25 people attended, and each person received a free seed packet and a basil transplant (photo on right) that was started from seed by the Clark Gardeners this spring. The SEP team is very proud of the work, commitment and engagement of the Clark Gardeners. Presenters were Donna Ball and Kathy Davis (photo above by Janet McGrane).



Richard Clark Senior Center patio garden (photo by Donna Ball).

## Senior Education Programs, cont.

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

More exciting developments to share:

- SEP has set up indoor plant educational information tables at **all the senior centers** called 'Plant Pop-Ups' to give away these plants to good homes. Special thanks to Melwood (CCMG Lead Linda Bronsdon, Brian Larson and Suse Greenstone) for providing several free plants and transplants, and to The Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden Project (CCMG Lead- Brent Burdick and Brian Larson) for providing transplants for the Clark Garden.
- **Indian Head Senior Center**  
The SEP team has provided consultation for the Green Thumb Gardeners at this site. A meeting later this summer is planned to select some Continuing Education topics for future presentations. Lori Guido will serve as the SEP liaison.
- **Nanjemoy Senior and Community Center**  
CCMG Paris Reed will present on "Cool Weather Crops and Fall Flowers" on Wednesday August 14, 2024, at 10am at this site. Call the center to register.
- **Waldorf Senior and Recreational Center**  
"All About Orchids" will be presented by CCMG Paris Reed on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 10am at this site.
- A workshop entitled "Monarch Madness" for all the seniors at the **Clark Center** will be held on Wednesday, September 25th. Michael Callahan, Naturalist from the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center will present. Volunteers are needed to collect butterflies, as examples, and potentially help with tagging them during the class.



Coneflower and butterfly photo by CCMG Michelle Chenault.



# Senior Education Programs, cont.

Article by CCMG Michelle Chenault

The project team includes the following CCMGs and Interns (in addition to Donna Ball, as Project Co-lead): Tiffany Daniel, Kathy Davis, Elveta Gibson, Lori Guido, Jeanine Harrington, Linda Ivko, Kathy Jenkins, Brian Larson, Aileen Lennon, Rose Markham, Janet McGrane, Meg MacDonald (representing Grow It Eat It - GIEI), Laura McManus, Kay Redman, Jerry Reed, Paris Reed, Jessica Richards, Stacey Sheffey, Terry Thir, Karen Trundle, Gail Walker, Laura Walker, Karen Westhead, Teri White, Julie Nethon-Williams and Karina Willette.

The Senior Education Programs (SEP) Project meeting is usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6pm via ZOOM. **Volunteers are always needed** to water and monitor the garden for insects and other pests. There is an orientation process to work with the special seniors. Contact Michelle Chenault (cell # 301-526-3225 or email: [vmchenault@gmail.com](mailto:vmchenault@gmail.com)) or Donna Ball (cell # 202-286-9291 or email: [dball15226@aol.com](mailto:dball15226@aol.com)) for more information.

Please join us for the fun! We welcome your ideas!! Again, sincere thanks to all for your efforts, hard work and input.

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## Summer Camp Activities

Article and photos by CCMG Terry Thir

CCMGs Bill Allen, Brent Burdick, Kathy Davis, Kathy Jenkins, Rose Markham and Terry Thir participated in day-camp activities for 70 kids attending the Charles County Parks & Recreation camp at Billingsley Elementary school.



Three activities were offered to the kids: "Needs of Seeds" featuring biodiversity of seeds, planting marigolds in a cup, and creating a hairy caterpillar. The hairy caterpillar was made using a mesh cloth and grass seed. The kids were very enthusiastic and enjoyed the opportunity to learn how plants grow from seeds and how to care for them.



# Grow It Eat It Education Project

Article by CCMG Meg MacDonald and photos by CCMG Terry Thir



The CCMG GIEI Edu project team – Tina Bailem, Michelle Chenault, Beth Grem (Co-Chair), Lori Guido, Kathy Jenkins, Meg MacDonald (Co-Chair), and Terry Thir – presented a workshop on Vegetable Plant Problems on July 13th at the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata. Volunteers who helped with the July 13th workshop – CCMGs Linda Bronsden, Teri White, Kay Redman, and Karen Trundle and MG Intern Ronla Henry-Reeves. During the free workshop, Master Gardeners provided information and answered questions about common pests and disease of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, squash and other crops typically grown in home gardens. [The PowerPoint presentation is available on the CCMG website at this link.](#)

The presentation also discussed abiotic problems, such as drought and excessive heat (very timely) and offered sustainable solutions as well as preventive strategies for dealing with these challenges. One strategy for mitigating damage to tomatoes is to pick them early (before fully ripened), leaving less exposure to pests and birds. More information is available here from Penn State Extension: [Is This Tomato Ready to Harvest?](#)

### Avoid fruit damage by ripening tomatoes indoors



Picked Husky Red tomato as color began to show July 7th. Placed indoors.



After two days July 9th



After five days July 12th



After eight days July 15th - fully ripe

Volunteer tasters on July 15th agreed that it tasted the same as Husky Red tomato that was ripened fully on the vine - during which fruit risked pest and wildlife damage

Much time during the workshop was devoted to questions and answers. Registered participants had been invited to bring photos and specimens of garden problems for advice, and many did so, precipitating lively discussions. CCMG volunteers also brought samples of plant problems from their own gardens, including blossom end rot of tomatoes, leaf curl, squash bug and squash vine borer damage. Left: CCMG Linda Bronsden behind the podium.



# Grow It Eat It Education Project, cont.

Article by CCMG Meg MacDonald and photos by CCMG Terry Thir



A table of demonstration items (left photo) – organic pest control and fungicide examples, shade cloth, insect netting, etc. -- was available for participants to peruse. CCMG Terry Thir provided information about the benefit of pollinators in vegetable gardens as well as an overview of CCMG projects. Feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive. The next GIEI EDU project workshop is scheduled for October 5, 2024, and will focus on Fall Vegetable Garden tasks. Below: CCMG Beth Grem presenting.



## Tomato Trials Update

As you know, Master Gardeners from around the state are growing heirloom cultivars in demonstration gardens, including in the MG Learning Garden at the State Fair and in their own gardens. Fourteen heirloom tomato cultivars were distributed to local GIEI programs. Participating CCMGs are collecting data including dates of planting, weights of fruits, pests and disease issues, and more. [Photos are being uploaded to an online album here.](#) Data will be shared at the end of the year.

By now, at the end of July, many of our trial growers are seeing our heirloom tomatoes growing big, blooming, and producing. Unfortunately, we are also getting an expected increase in pests and diseases. Some have seen significant wildlife damage also from uninvited groundhogs and deer.

## Grow It Eat It Education Project, cont.

Article by CCMG Meg MacDonald and photos by CCMG Terry Thir

The workshop (above) highlighted typical pests that our trial growers are seeing in their own plots – tomato and tobacco hornworms, tomato fruitworm (aka Corn Earworm), Colorado potato beetle, etc. Judging by photos posted by our gardeners in the UME album, the tomato fruitworm and the striped armyworm are causing damage to our heirloom tomatoes.



Tomato Fruitworm (below left) and Yellow Striped Armyworm (below right) on Cherokee Purple tomatoes (photo: Meg MacDonald).



Using shade cloth over tomato plants can help prevent sun scald and other heat-related problems (photo right by Meg MacDonald).

Abiotic (non-living) problems the heirloom growers are facing this year is excessive heat and drought. These conditions can lead to blossom drop and poor pollination in tomato (and other) crops. Using shade cloth and maintaining soil moisture with irrigation can help. Thankfully, some rain has eased the drought at times and the temperature dropped for a week to give us a break.

More information on the Year of the Heirloom Tomatoes and the Heirloom Tomato Trials can be found here: [Year of the Heirloom Tomato – University of Maryland Extension](#).

Note under EVENTS that our colleagues in Carroll County and Baltimore County are holding Tomato Festivals and Tastings. This information was discussed at the Statewide Grow It Eat It meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>:

- Carroll County Annual Tomato Festival – August 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Carroll County Farmers Market in Westminster.
- Tomato Tasting – August 17<sup>th</sup> at the Baltimore County Agriculture Center, 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD. More details to come.



## Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Project

Article and Photos by CCMG Rose Markham

In our last Compost, I mentioned that our Eco-System Junior homeschoolers planned to perform a skit on “Who Polluted the Potomac” at Gilbert Run Park during their end of year celebration. This event is held every year at the Park, with picnic, boating, and presentations by many of the students and their parents. It’s an opportunity for the kids to demonstrate the skills and topics they learned during the school year.

For two weeks the students planned and diligently worked with us on the script which included two student volunteers who acted as narrators. They helped to direct the 15 student volunteers to read their assigned lines. Each student had a canister that represented a pollutant, and their task was to dump their canister into the bowl that represented the Potomac River after they finished reading their one or two assigned lines. A sound system with a microphone was provided so it helped our kids to be heard. Needless to say, our students outdid themselves. They had character, made it fun, and I must admit I was surprised at how well they performed. Their parents were so proud and so were we; their classmates loved the program. They knew they did a great job because they received a very loud ovation. It was all about the challenges of becoming leaders and these youngsters met the challenge. Take a minute and study the photos here, you can see everyone was really into the demonstration.



# Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Project, cont.

Article and Photos by CCMG Rose Markham



# Pollinator Week

Article by CCMG Terry Thir

This year we decided to try something new to celebrate National Pollinator Week which occurred June 16-22, 2024. Each major project was requested to host an event showcasing their projects. All MGs and Interns were encouraged to participate to learn about these volunteer opportunities.

The week began with an open house at the **Christ Church Meditation Garden** in La Plata, MD, which featured native flowers and shrubs. A new vegetable garden was installed this Spring. All produce harvested is donated to the Church food pantry. The beautiful gardens had a lot of beneficial insects enjoying their plants. Drop by and enjoy the beautiful garden and serenity. Below: Christ Church Meditation Garden (left), and CCMGs Brent Burdick and Karen Hile (right).

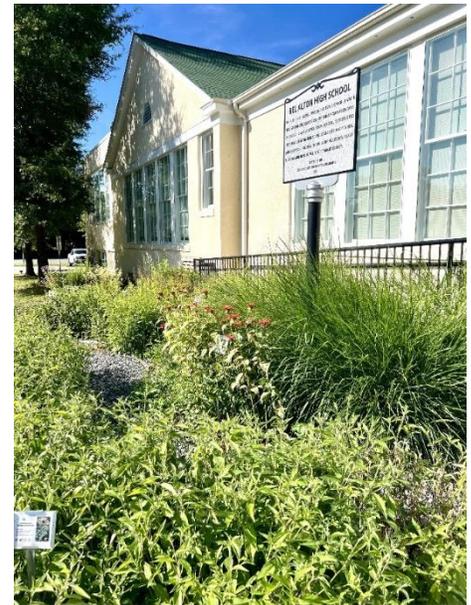


The next event, was sponsored by the **Senior Education Program (SEP)** at the Clark Center in La Plata, MD. MGs have been very busy growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers in a variety of raised beds and container gardens. This program was created to work with the senior plus members (gardeners) and bring the joy of gardening back into their lives. You can visit the outside patio garden to see the hard work of the SEP team. L-R: Michelle Chenault, Donna Ball, Kathy Jenkins, Terry Thir, Kathy Davis, Brian Larson, Linda Ivko and Janet McGrane. Bottom photo is the Clark Container Garden.

# Pollinator Week, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Terry Thir

The Extension Demonstration Garden held an open house and plant swap. MGs donated plants to share with each other. Everyone got to see the five years of growth in our native, pollinator gardens which have reached maturity. The gardens are well established now and are attracting lots of pollinators. The plants have ID signs and the garden is open for self-guided tours. Right: Extension Demonstration Garden. Below: Butterfly Weed (*Asclépias tuberosa*).



Left: MG Plant Swap ay Extension Demo Garden

Above: CCMGs Brian Larson, Sally Matts, Terry Thir, Kathy Jenkins, Linda Ivko, Janet McGrane, Karen Westhead at Demo Garden/Plant swap

## Pollinator Week, cont.

Article and photos by CCMG Terry Thir

Closing the week, was a tour of the Foodbank in Waldorf. A partnership with Catholic charities. The entire gardens were dismantled, moved and expanded. The team has done an amazing job and all food grown by Master Gardeners is donated to the foodbank. A true labor of love. You can drop by and tour the gardens. Tours are also provided to youth groups and other interested parties. Right: Food Bank Garden.

Below: CCMGs at the Food Bank Event -- Linda Ivko, Karen Westhead, Gail Black, Kathy Jenkins, Kathy Davis, Brent Burdick, Brian Larson.



# Melwood Horticultural Therapy Programs

Article by CCMG Barbara Hill, photos by CCMG Barbara Hill and Suse Greenstone

What a HOT summer we are having. Gardens still need to be cared for and we had some willing Camp Accomplish participants to help as well as Master Gardener volunteers.



Camp Accomplish at Melwood in Nanjemoy partnered with Children’s National Hospital has various groups each week who attend and participate in many programs, including the horticultural section. Master Gardeners assist in these activities each week. Ask them how rewarding this is! Here Linda Bronsdon helps the group prepare planting areas and plant cucumbers.



## Melwood Horticultural Therapy Programs, cont.

Article by CCMG Barbara Hill, photos by CCMG Barbara Hill and Suse Greenstone



CCMG Jackie Jenkins teaching Camp youth how to divide potted houseplants during an indoor gardening session on a rainy day.



CCMG Brian Larson teaching Campers and Camp Staff how to plant peppers.



## Melwood Horticultural Therapy Programs, cont.

Article by CCMG Barbara Hill, photos by CCMG Barbara Hill and Suse Greenstone

CCMG June Leyland works with teenage Campers to moisten soil for water retention and weed control. Group photo shows Linda Bronsdon and June Leyland with teenage Campers and Medical Staff from Children’s National Hospital who are working as a team to prepare a planting area in the Melwood Learning Garden.



And the children are so happy to see how their work produces bounty!



# Melwood Horticultural Therapy Programs, cont.

Article by CCMG Barbara Hill, photos by CCMG Barbara Hill and Suse Greenstone

There is always work to do in the gardens and greenhouse, keeping things watered and watching for pests, and also helping with classes at the Melwood Recreation Center this summer. If you want to volunteer at Melwood in Nanjemoy, contact Suse Greenstone to discuss beginning the vetting process. If interested in a group of MGs coming out for a morning or afternoon service event, a group can come out to help without going through the vetting process for that stand alone project event. Contact Suse for details.

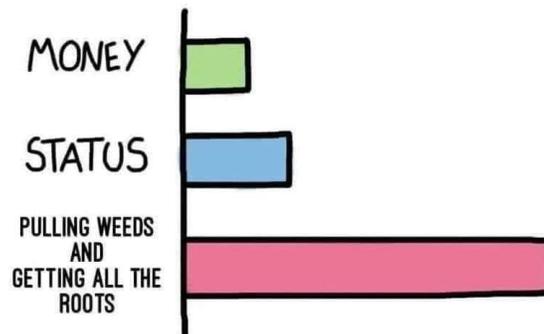


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# Bay-Wise Landscape Management

Article by CCMG Rose Markham



Now that summer is in full swing, I know you are all working in your gardens and discovering new ways to improve your landscapes. Personally, I've started to experiment a bit by taking up some of my turf grass to put in a native garden. Thanks to some of the winter sowing workshops I attended earlier in the year; I had some great seeds to plant.

Since our April Compost, our team participated in the 15th annual Market Day at the historic Port Tobacco Courthouse. It was quite a day as we were almost rained out again because our original date of May 4 was a bust and sure enough the rain date of May 18 brought more rain, but the event went forward. Thanks to CCMGs Bill Allen, Terry Thir, Marguerita Harding, Jennifer Godlewski, and June Leyland, we set up our tent and set up a very nice display. We handed out a lot of information on our Bay-Wise certification program as well as articles on composting, native plants, rain gardens, etc. We distributed the left-over tree bundles from our tree-give away in April. Enjoy these photos of our display from the event.



Speaking of the Bay-Wise certification program, if anyone would like to see how a home certification works, don't hesitate to get in touch and come join us. I will make sure I add you to my e-mail list. I know many of you are a bit nervous about having your home Bay-Wise certified but believe me it is not complicated. I encourage those of you who are thinking about it to [click on this link to read about the process](#). Take a few minutes and check it out.

# Bay-Wise Landscape Management

Article by CCMG Rose Markham

## Bay-Wise Certification

In May June Leyland and I certified the landscape and vegetable garden at the home of Callie Maginnis. Callie lives in a very quiet single family home with her parents and raised by her grandmother who taught her all about gardening. Originally, she had sent out a request to have her vegetable garden certified but when June and I arrived at the property we were blown away by the front yard flower gardens as well as the design of the shrubs and other plantings surrounding her home. By the time we were greeted by Callie and she walked us over to her vegetable gardens in her backyard, we talked her into printing out a landscape yardstick so we could certify her full property. It was a very fun visit and Callie definitely would make a great master gardener. Enjoy these pics of both the garden and some of the front yard landscape.



**Dr. Samuel Mudd House**  
**Article by CCMG Rose Markham**



We had a late start this year because of the April rains so Patti Faulkner and I met up in May for our first visit to the property. We had a chance to visit with Jim Rather, the President of the Docents and the new President Clyde Hartshorn. We went over our plans for the garden and both Jim and Clyde will be helping us with more resources in terms of watering, adding mulch as needed and offered to help us with other needs as they arise. Jim has added the garden to the house tour so we will be providing info and answering questions on the existing herbs. We have replenished the seeds and added more herb info sheets in our information box. Patti was kind enough to put the list together and we gathered some seed packets from the Maryland Extension office.

Thanks to Kate Redman we have cleaned up and removed 90 per cent of the English ivy at the well. She revived the planting box and donated the soil, mulch and native plants as well as a few irises to enhance the area. In addition, she cleaned up the iris bed by the crepe myrtle located across from the herb garden. In fact, she gave that whole area a complete makeover. Both Patti and I are very appreciative and look forward to Kay's visits. She is always thinking ahead of ways to improve the property.

Patti and I both enjoy our time in the garden and taking care of the plantings in and around our garden. We especially enjoy the hummingbirds that whizz by from time to time and if we're lucky we can snap one or two camera shots when they come around for a drink.

If anyone would like to join us on the first Wednesday of the month from now until Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, feel free to come by. We usually meet around 10:00 and finish up around noon. Our next visit is August 7. You can always contact me or Patti Faulkner with any questions. In the meantime, enjoy these hummingbird pics. Happy gardening!



# Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B., group photos by Monica Bumbray.

CCMGs and Interns had a very productive time supporting the Southern Maryland Food Bank’s Seeds of Hope, Community Learning Garden, this year. After relocating the garden footprint during early spring, the Food Bank received a donation to have chain-link fence installed around the garden. We added several large pots in the garden and built several fence-type trellises that rose up from one bed and arched into the next bed. So far this year (as of 7/25/24), 283 lbs. of produce have been harvested and given to the Food Bank for their various meal programs. This compares with 258 lbs. harvested by this time last year.

Below left: Acorn squash with 15’ sunflowers in tread planter.  
Below right: CCMG Brian L. looking for squash bugs in the zucchini bed.



Below: Butternut squash growing on a trellis arching over two beds.



# Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B., group photos by Monica Bumbray.

## Outreach Activities

We conducted four outreach activities so far this year:

In May, we held a workshop for the Willis Group in La Plata. The Willis Group is a major sponsor of the Food Bank and had donated seedlings to the garden in the past years. As such, we offered to hold a workshop for them this spring to learn how to do Winter Sowing to help generate transplants for the garden. They were not able to this spring but invited us to do so at their Wellness Employee Engagement & Recruitment Fair. We were one station of the dozen or so they had at their Fair at company headquarters in La Plata.

CCMGs Linda I., Karen W., Gail B., and Brent B. taught their interested employees the art of Winter Sowing – the employees planted 11 jugs with flower and vegetable seeds for the Food Bank. We also provided information on home gardening and lettuce boxes, gave out seed packets, and demonstrated potato basket and sweet potato slip generation. From four large bundles we brought, employees took home white and Japanese sweet potato slips (four or five slips in a baggie) to plant in their own yards.



Above left: CCMGs Karen W. and Linda I. assist Willis employees with seed selection and learning winter sowing techniques. Above right: CCMGs Gail B., Linda I., Karen W., and Brent B. prepare a display at the Willis Group Headquarters.

# Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B., group photos by Monica Bumbray.

Also in May, we held a youth group outreach program for an Indian Head Elementary School Garden Club (12 youth and 2 adults) who visited the garden. Our county UM-E SNAP-Ed Project Coordinator and Nutrition Educator, Jessica C., also participated. She made a salad partly with kale, spinach, and strawberries the kids harvested from the garden. CCMGs Brian L. and Brent B. (along with non-project CCMGs Kathy D., and Lori G. with that group earlier in the year) hosted the group in the garden tour. The youth learned about home gardening and also got their hands dirty – they helped plant bush beans, harvest vegetables, and do some weeding. Harvesting also included harvesting potatoes from the potato baskets we started last February. They then replanted the potato baskets so we could get another crop before the end of fall. They had a great time!



Left: Garden Club youth group members snack on salad they made with produce that they harvested from the Food Bank Garden.

In June, a youth group from the Upward Thrive Academy in Waldorf visited the garden. CCMGs Brent B. and Brian L. guided the 25 children and 10 adults through the garden. They sampled carrot tops, rosemary, kale, zucchini, yellow squash, and cucumber. UME-SNAP-Ed Program Coordinator Jessica C. assisted the youth in preparing a Caesar and a vinaigrette dressing in which to dip the produce that they sampled. They also harvested potato baskets and replanted the baskets to help get another crop before the end of the year.

Photos below: Children harvest strawberries and kale from the garden and potatoes from our potato baskets and then eat salad they prepared from the produce they harvested.



# Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B., group photos by Monica Bumbray.

In July, CCMGs Brian L., Derex T., Sandra H., and Brent B. hosted a Girl Scout Troop on Saturday morning in the garden. The Scouts, their siblings, and leaders/parents (10 children and 5 adults) had fun learning about vegetable gardening and the need for flowers to get pollinators into the garden! They harvested 29 lbs. of produce for the Food Bank. They then got to sample some of the cantaloupe, tomatoes, and yellow summer squash they harvested, with Food Bank staff putting the samples together for them. The Scouts particularly had fun rummaging through the soil harvesting potato baskets and replanting the baskets with more seed potatoes.

Photos clockwise: Scouts looking for zucchini to harvest, harvesting tomatoes, and then sampling cantaloupe, yellow summer squash and the tomatoes they harvested.



# Southern Maryland Food Bank Garden

Article and photos by CCMG Brent B., group photos by Monica Bumbray.

Also, during one evening in June, CCMGs Brian L. and Brent B. hosted a tour of the garden for other CCMGs who were participating in a special event supporting pollinator week. As such, CCMGs visited other CCMG projects that actively worked gardens.

## Gardening Forward

In addition to harvesting potato baskets and replanting them for a second crop this year, we have also sown seeds to generate more acorn, zucchini, and yellow summer squash. Since the acorn squash had already finished producing, and the others were about ready to stop, we wanted to get more plants growing to keep the harvest coming until the end of fall. We are already planning on starting seedlings for our fall cold-weather crops.

**Food Bank Tours**

MG and UME-related program groups can schedule Food Bank Garden tours/activities by contacting the CCMG Project Coordinator, Brent B. Other community members and groups can schedule garden tours and other gardening learning activities by calling Monica Bumbray, the Food Bank Community Outreach Program Manager, at (301) 274-0695.



<https://www.buzzsprout.com/687509>

# The Garden Thyme Podcast

Garden Thyme Podcast

A monthly podcast where we help you get down and dirty in your garden, with timely gardening tips, information about native plants, and more! The Garden Thyme Podcast is brought to you by the University of Maryland Extension. <https://extension.umd.edu/>. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Welcome to our new MG Coordinator, Julia Rycyna!



Please welcome Julia Rycyna, DPM, our new Charles County Master Gardener Coordinator and Home Horticulture Educator at the Charles County Extension Office.

Her drive to learn more about plants led to an M.S. in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida where she studied non-invasive, non-native cultivars for the landscape and balanced a new passion for native plants.

At the same time, Julia was co-enrolled in the University of Florida's Doctor of Plant Medicine Program where she received her DPM degree. The program expanded upon the desire to not just grow plants, but also to consider the other aspects of plant health. Of the many topics covered, entomology and Integrated Pest Management were topics that Julia found most intriguing.



Julia will provide leadership for the Charles County Master Gardeners and will collaborate with other Extension programs to bring gardening to all members of the community. She looks forward to helping people with home horticulture, including native plants, pollinators, and sustainability. She can be reached at [jrycyna@umd.edu](mailto:jrycyna@umd.edu).

The University of Maryland Extension's Vegetable Planting Calendar can be found at

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/vegetable-planting-calendar/>

### Garden Dictionary

**Double Flower** – A flower with many overlapping petals which gives it a very full appearance.

From [The Garden Helper Dictionary](#)

## Rule Notification



### NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES AND PROSPECTIVE BENEFICIARIES

Name of Organization: University of Maryland Extension

Name of Program: Master Gardener

Contact Information for Program Staff: Shelley King-Curry, AED for Southern Maryland Cluster, phone (301) 226-7505, email skingcur@umd.edu

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Washington, DC 20250-9410

**Fax:** (202) 690-7442

**Email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

- (5) If you would like to seek information about whether there are any other federally funded organizations that provide these kinds of services in your area, please contact Latoya Hicks at lhicks12@umd.edu.

This written notice must be provided to you before you enroll in the program or receive services from the program, unless the nature of the service provided, or exigent circumstances make it impracticable to provide such notice before we provide the actual service. In such an instance, this notice must be provided to you at the earliest available opportunity.

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## Save the Dates and Volunteer!

### Plant Clinic Project @ La Plata Farmer's Market - Saturdays

This outreach program links the community to gardening resources of the University of Maryland Extension. MGs answer questions from area residents on plant-related topics. For more information, contact Linda Ivko at [ljivko@gmail.com](mailto:ljivko@gmail.com).

### Sep. 12-15 – Charles County Fair

Location: Fairgrounds in La Plata. More details to follow.

### Sep. 14 – Puppet Show – “The Misadventures of Peter Rabbit in Farmer McGregor’s Vegetable Garden” at the Charles County Fair

Location: Fairgrounds in La Plata at 10:00 am. More details to follow. Contact Terry Thir.

### Oct. 5 – GIEI Fall Vegetable Gardening Workshop

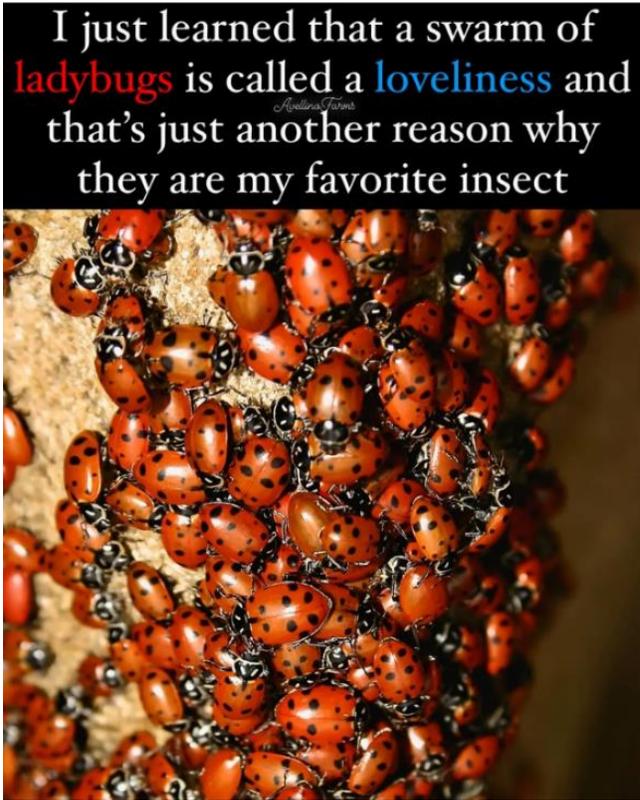
Location: College of Southern Maryland campus. 10 am to noon. Contact Meg MacDonald for more information at [maggiemac420@hotmail.com](mailto:maggiemac420@hotmail.com) or the Extension office.



thehappygardens

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**RUN! Lettuce and bacon are coming!**



The mission of the Charles County Master Gardeners is to support the University of Maryland Extension service by educating residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.



**Need a CCMG Shirt?**

Members are asked to wear a Charles County Master Gardeners shirt at community events. Purchase a royal blue color polo or t-shirt and have it embroidered with our official logo at:



The Embroidery Factory  
12150 Acton Lane, Unit A  
Waldorf, MD 20601  
301-885-0000

[embfactorymd@gmail.com](mailto:embfactorymd@gmail.com)  
<https://www.theembroideryfactorymd.com>  
Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

The Embroidery Factory also has shirts available for purchase. Printing takes approximately 1-2 weeks. Once printed, there are no refunds.

Questions? Contact Terry Thir at [thirccmg@aol.com](mailto:thirccmg@aol.com).

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Connie Nesbary, Editor of *The Compost*

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**Submissions to *The Compost*** - Submit articles, photos, reports, events, and other items for publication to the editor at [thecompostofccmg@gmail.com](mailto:thecompostofccmg@gmail.com) by October 21, 2024, for the Fall 2024 newsletter. Please include a brief description of the activity, names of persons in photos and the photographer's name. Please include scientific names of plants.

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